

HASP Template

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

HASP Section 11 Confined Space Entry

11.1 Overview

The hazards encountered and associated with entering and working in confined spaces are capable of causing bodily injury, illness, and death to the worker.

Accidents occur among workers because of failure to recognize that a confined space is a potential hazard. It should, therefore, be considered that the most unfavorable situation exists in every case and that the danger of explosion, poisoning, and asphyxiation will be present at the onset of entry.

Many hazardous conditions are possible and include: Hazardous Atmospheres (flammable, toxic, irritant, and asphyxiating), and General Safety Hazards (mechanical, communications, entry and exit, and physical).

11.2 Recognition

A Confined Space is defined as space which:

- Is large enough, and so configured, that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
- Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, dumpsters used routinely for avian asphyxiation and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry); and
- Is not designed for Continuous employee occupancy.

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Due to the nature and configuration of Confined Space, they pose an extra hazard to those entering them, as well as hazard to those attempting rescue of injured individual or groups in the confined space. To mitigate these hazards, OSHA (29 CFR 1910.146) calls for a permit system to be used whenever entry is required into a confined space which meets the definition above and which has a **known or potential hazard present**. An example of a potential hazard would be entering a sewer. A sewer can be tested and found to have an acceptable level of oxygen (19.5%-21.0%), no flammable vapors, and no toxic air contaminants. However, all three of these items are known to exist in sewer, so a permit would be needed for entry even in this specific instance where *testing did not show a hazard*.

Atmospheric testing equipment will be needed to assure safe entry into Confined Spaces. The following will need to be tested at a minimum:

Percent Oxygen (19.5-21%)

Lower Explosive Level (<10%)

Other compounds may need to be tested for. Examples include:

Carbon Monoxide

Hydrogen Sulfide

(See section 7 on monitoring for further details.)

11.3 Administration

If APHIS personnel or contractors must enter a Confined Space with a known or potential hazard present, a permit system must be used and

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training required. A Permit Required Confined Space entry program is supplied in Appendix 11-A. To enter confined spaces, three positions must be filled (a rescue team must also be available). Employees must be trained to perform the functions of:

Entrant

Attendant

Supervisor

The training requirements are outlined in the Permit Required Confined Space Program in Appendix 11-A. Also, arrangements must be made with local emergency response organizations for rescue service in the Permit Required Confined Space.

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